(b) The development measures in the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

(i) Five projects with annual production capacity of 10.83 million tonnes were completed with sanctioned capital outlay of Rs. 479.59 crores.

(ii) Three projects namely Samaleshwari (3.00 million tonnes per year), Bharatpur Augmentation (1.S million tonnes per year) and Ananta Augmentation (1.50 million tonnes per year) have been taken up for implementation. Three advance action projects namely Hingula, Bhubancswar! and Kaniah are under implementation.

(iii) Besides the above, various programmes for welfare, community development and infrastructure improvement were taken up.

(c)"For the Ninth Five Year Plan allocation for Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), as assessed by the Working Group on Coal and Legnite for formulation of 9th Five Year Plan, is Rs. 1800 v

(d) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) plant to increase coal proudction from 37.96 million tonnes in 1996-97 to 47.25 million tonnes by the terminal year of the IX Five Year Plan (2001-02).

Operation of mines in Raniganj Coalfields

2135. SHRI CO. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfield Limited has ceased operation of some mines in Raniganj Coalfields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some unions have objected to this ceasation of operation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the management in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The production in six highly loss making mines of ECL has been suspended.

(c) and (d) Some trade unions have protested against the suspension of production in these mines. But before suspension of production from these mines the matter was discussed by the manage- * ment in several Joint Consultative Committee Meetings. Also a fact-finding Committee has been constituted by the management to go into the details of the circumstances leading to the suspension of the mining operation. It has also been informed to the trade union organisations that the workers of these mines have been suitably redeployed in other mines of ECL and no worker has been laid off, nor the service conditions of the workers have been affected.

New Projects by BCCL

2136. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be* pleased to state:

(a) number of new projects started by BCCL since its inception;

(b) amount spent on each of them giving names;

(c) present stale of each project, viable and non-viable;

(d) total loss suffered in each non- - viable project;

(e) reasons for non-viability and loss; and

(f) steps taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (0 Since inception, BCCL has taken up 40 new projects. Out of these, 7 projects are under implementation; 29 projects have been completed and in 4 projects coal reserves have been exhausted. Details of these projects